



News from the Region: April 29, 2026



♥ *Community News and Celebration:*

We are so happy to share with the United Church community that **Ann Thomas, of Jasper United Church, has earned the Mayor's Recognition Award for Distinguished Volunteer Service in Jasper, Alberta.** *Ann was nominated by Jasper United Church and the Jasper Yellowhead Museum and Archives. Ann has been involved with the Jasper United Church for many years, on our Church Board and as a Trustee. Since the Jasper Wildfire, Ann was instrumental in keeping our Annual Plant Sale and Christmas Tea happening. As a long time Jasperite, Ann has been involved in many volunteer projects. In supporting her daughters' activities, she organized the annual community Turkey Dinner fundraiser for the School Band, was District Commissioner for Girl Guides, and supported the Red Fins Swim Club. She has been on the Tennis Club executive for years and organized Santa's Anonymous. She continues to be a key volunteer with the Jasper Museum. We all are very fortunate that Ann continues to step up. Thank you Ann and congratulations, a well deserved award!*

News of interest to the people of the Northern Spirit Region.

If you have news or events to share, please write a short description, with a clear headline and a link to more information,

and send it to northernspirit@united-church.ca.
[Check out our local events calendar](#), and [submit your own community events!](#)

Family News

♥ **Death of former General Secretary Rev Ginny Coleman**

The United Church of Canada grieves the death of Rev. Kathryn Virginia "Ginny" Coleman, who faithfully served as the eighth General Secretary of the church from 1994–2002. Rev. Coleman died on April 3, 2026. She is predeceased by her beloved spouse, Suzanne Morris (2014), and survived by her sister, Barb (Gary), stepson Chris Emond (Lisa), and two grandchildren, Kye and Michelle. [Please see the church's memorial here.](#)

★ **Sign on invitation: Christian leaders opposing upcoming AB Christian Summit**

Friends, lay and ordered, including church boards/ Councils, you're invited to reflect on this open letter from Christian leaders, and discern signing it. On May 4 and 5, Premier Danielle Smith is hosting the Premier's Annual Christian Summit in Red Deer. The event is organized by Michael Clark of the Christian Impact Network, whose stated goal - documented by CBC News - is to manufacture 10,000 Christian political candidates across Canada and align Canadian law with biblical principles. The letter notes, "No single tradition, congregation, or political movement speaks for all people of faith. And the faith we know - across our many traditions - has never been most itself when it is closest to power. Rather, it has been most itself when it is closest to the people that power overlooks." Read the full statement, see the signatory list, and add your name if you are a faith leader or community leader: <https://tinyurl.com/albertafaithleaders>. Regional family in BC and NWT, you can likely sign too, if you like. Please add Northern Spirit Regional Council, United Church of Canada to add context.

★ **Summer Worship Planning: *Inventions of Summer* available through Region**

Inventions of Summer: A simple, creative, theologically rich companion for a Summer Sabbath or Worship Series. *Inventions of Summer* is a four-week, ready-to-use Summer Sabbath booklet and worship series inviting you to enrich your summer through simple reflections on sunflowers, string beans, mosquitoes, and fireflies. [More details and an overview of this worship series can be reviewed here.](#) This series is available as a **gift** from the Region, who purchased a license from Prayer Bench, to support Leaders and Communities of Faith. [Sign up to receive this series at this link.](#) When you sign up via the short form, you will receive access to the booklet, the worship notes and additional resources.

Wider Church News & Resources

★ Call for articles for The Alberta United Church of Canada Historical Journal 2026

The Alberta United Church Historical Committee, previously known as the Historical Society, is looking for any articles for their yearly newsletter on the history of the United Church - histories of congregations, milestones, or any personal reminiscences that you feel would be of general interest are welcome. If you have a story to share please sent it to Chair [Willie Korendyk](#), and it will be reviewed for the forthcoming Journal issue!

★ Red Dress Day, May 5: the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people (MMIWG2S).

Let us honour the lives lost, support the grieving, seek justice for the missing, and call on all levels of government and society to implement the Calls to Justice from the Final Report of the National Inquiry. We can: Hang a red dress outside your church or home. Attend a local vigil: please search on the web and social media, as these are planned by local groups. Pray for and with all survivors, loved ones, families, and communities. Year round: Consider inviting (and certainly paying) advocates and survivors who wish to speak publicly. Develop trusted sources of information you can learn from, including grassroots and university groups that offer online learning. This violent pandemic is not improving. The facts are so hard and so important to learn.

★ Minute for Reconciliation from Regina Native Outreach Ministry

Regina Native Outreach Ministry (RNOM) has prepared material to help bring awareness to *Red Dress Day (May 5)*, and *Bear Witness Day (May 10)* and *Moose Hide Campaign (May 14)*. All material can be [found here](#).

Invitation: National Moosehide Campaign against violence, 14 May

Canada is in the midst of an ongoing national crisis of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2S-LGBTQIA+ people. The Moosehide Campaign is a call to all people in Canada to take a stand against racism and for justice. This year we are hoping for a record United Church turn-out at the virtual events, local walks to end violence, and fasts to end violence. [See all information about the national campaign here](#).

National events include a sunrise ceremony, educational plenary, and workshops (all available via livestream). You can register [here](#) for virtual events (including livestream links to all the national campaign day events). Local marches are being organized across the country. Find your local march on the map located [here](#), or register [here](#) to become a community steward and organize your own events.

Graduate of Emmanuel College? Please help update your contact info for their upcoming Centenary

As Emmanuel College in Toronto prepares for its 100th birthday in 2028, they are

working to update Emmanuel College alumni contact lists. They write, "Over the years, we have lost touch with many EC alumni, often due to the itinerant nature of their work. We would like to be able to reach as many of them as possible in the UCC Community, ask them to self-identify and provide us with a current email address so that we can keep them updated on the Centenary plans. Can you please share this [brief questionnaire](#) with your congregations, networks, or colleagues? It asks individuals for their name, email address, and graduating year."

Worship Resources:

See United Church [Worship Resources](#) for upcoming Sundays and special celebrations.

[Fifth Sunday of Easter - May 3, 2026](#)

[Mental Health Sunday - May 3, 2026](#)

[Asian Heritage Month 1 - May 3, 2026](#)

[Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 10, 2026](#)

[Rural Life Sunday - May 10, 2026](#)

[Asian Heritage Month 2 - May 10, 2026](#)

[Christian Family Sunday - May 10, 2026](#)

* [Click here to access Northern Spirit's 2026 Prayer Cycle](#)

● [Click here to access past Newsletter issues](#)



Northern Spirit Regional Council Office

8510 95 Ave NW Edmonton Alberta

1-587-407-0330

northernspirit@united-church.ca

www.northernspiritr.ca

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